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argues for centralized authority, so definite in form that responsibility may be accurately located. There should be also, he urges, some method of recall by which prison administrators may be made to respond to the highest standards of moral action for which the community stands.

Dr. Whitin is too familiar with actual conditions to be academic; he is, perhaps, too engrossed with them to be quite scholarly. Yet there is a degree of detachment and inductive reasoning in this book which should be welcomed in a country where penological practice has been too long left to "spoilsmen" and where popular thought on society's obligation to its law-breakers has been too much moulded by the vapidities of maladministrators and the interested misstatements of speculators in cheap labor.

Two defects in the book cannot go unnoticed. One is an excessive use of italics, carried to such extreme that the reader's eye hurries over the emphasized portions as rapidly as over the rest of the page. The other is loose writing which at times involves the author in vagueness and even misstatement of fact. An example is:

Despite the grandeur of our penitentiary system, the exploitation for private gain of its inmates has continued, so that while the state has slowly but surely come to control the industries of its children, the control of its convict industries is still a new thought in many states today. (p. 6.)

The state, of course, does not control industries in which children are employed in the same sense in which Dr. Whitin desires it to control prison industries. It only regulates the former to a limited extent.

WINTHROP D. LANE.

Staff of The Survey.

Unemployment. A Social Study. By B. SEEBOHM ROWNTREE and BRUNO LASKER. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1911. Pp. xx, 311. \$1.60.)

In this volume the authors summarize the results of a most interesting intensive study of a group of 1278 persons found unemployed in the city of York, England, on a given day in June, 1910. If the results of such a study made in a relatively small English city (82,000 inhabitants) may seem to have but slight interest for students of industrial conditions in America, a reading

of the first and perhaps most valuable chapter upon the unemployed youths will suffice to correct an erroneous impression. In it are vivid pictures of the way in which the lack of vocational training, "dead-end" occupations, and unsteady employment are side-tracking youths to the industrial scrap-heap; all of which will be as useful for study here as in England. A strong word for some scheme of vocational training and guidance follows, which is in line with one of the recommendations made in the *Minority Report on the Poor Laws*; but it may be questioned how far the suggestion of compulsory attendance of boys, from fifteen to nineteen, at training schools would prove to be practical for widespread adoption.

It is quite significant that when the groups of irregular and casual workers and the "work-shy" are studied in the succeeding chapters, we see in a large majority of the men but the product of youth neglected or ill-fitted for industry—still further evidence of the importance of dealing with this problem in its earlier stages.

Six definite suggestions for reform are given:

1. Better training for youths.
2. Regulation of work of public bodies.
3. Afforestation.
4. Decasualisation of labor.
5. Insurance.
6. Decentralisation of town populations.

The first, to which reference has already been made, seems most important and useful, while much may be said in favor of the measures suggested in the second and fourth. The writers are less convincing when outlining a rather carefully thought-out plan of afforestation (the third), and when urging (under the sixth) the possibility of duplicating Belgian conditions. Moreover, they are inclined to look for a larger measure of help from labor exchanges than seems to be justified by experience with such agencies.

Nevertheless, in the facts which are adduced in support of all these proposals is to be found material of much value for revealing sub-surface conditions among the workers, to a public that has been all too ready to attribute to frailty and perverseness the responsibility for industrial inefficiency and suffering.

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